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Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Jean-Marc Hoscheit (Luxembourg), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions on public administration and development 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006 and 2007/38 of 4 October 2007,

Recalling also the resolutions of the General Assembly on public administration and development 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005,

Recalling further paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005,

Taking note with appreciation of the pioneering work of the United Nations Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development in supporting Member States with administrative reforms, public institution-building, civil service training and post-conflict reconstruction of public administrations during the past 60 years since its inception in 1948,[1]

Recognizing that although the conditions and context of development and governance have changed, public administration priorities, including capacity-building for development and ownership of national development still remain critical cross-cutting issues for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

[1] See General Assembly resolution 246 (III).

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1. *Takes note* of the conclusions on the topic of capacity-building for development in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session;[2]

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen their capacities to better utilize the various aid modalities[3] and to disseminate the understanding and implementation of capacity-building as a judicious combination of institution-building and human resource development,[4] whereby people, organizations, States and society as a whole develop and maintain their ability to manage their public affairs successfully through, among other means, fostering public participation in governance and development processes,[5] harnessing the potential of information and communications technology to promote people-centred development, effectively combining decentralization and centralization policies, and forging regional and national partnerships with institutions of public administration to provide needed training;[6]

3. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential and needed in administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and public administration training, improving performance in the public sector, financial management, public-private interaction, social development, developing infrastructure and protecting the environment, governmental legal and regulatory capacity, and the management and implementation of development programmes;[7]

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to monitor the progress made towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and to prepare an inventory of good administrative policies implemented to support the Goals, including the necessary capacities, institutional development aspects and strategic visions concerning a modern civil service, and emphasizes that the United Nations system, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other concerned United Nations bodies, should support such efforts and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

5. *Stresses* that capacity-building for public administration is of utmost importance for all transitioning economies, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, and disaster/crisis management and preparedness, that capacity-building processes in those areas share a number of important common features and experiences concerning the interaction of societal, systemic, organizational and individual levels of action, and that Member countries should share these experiences in a more systematic and comprehensive way;

6. *Emphasizes* that in capacity-building for post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, the continuity of administration and public services, the coherence of the public sector and a multi-stakeholder approach are important prerequisites, and that in capacity-building for post-disaster and crisis situations, the United Nations system, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and

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[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 24* (E/2008/44).
[3] See General Assembly resolution 59/250, para. 30.
[4] See E/1997/86.
[5] See resolution 2005/3.
[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 44* (E/2003/44).
[7] See A/50/525.

other United Nations bodies should support efforts to distil and share lessons learned and best practices;

7. Requests the Secretariat to enhance its support for capacity-building,[8] including in the public sector, ensuring that available resources are adequate and existing resource levels are maintained;

8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continually focus on the United Nations Public Service Awards, the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN), the Network of Innovators, the *World Public Sector Reports* and the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, and further requests the Secretariat to continue its useful role in facilitating the implementation of the action lines contained in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[9]

9. *Notes* the latest phase of the work done by the Committee of Experts on basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration through a review of proposed definitions;

10. *Notes* the input by the Committee of Experts on the theme of the 2008 annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.

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[8] See General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 22 (f).

[9] See A/60/687.